necessity for reconstruction of 67 bridges, special repairs to 37 bridges and minor repairs to 117 bridges.

(b) A sum of Rs. 3853.28 lakhs was spent during 1986-87 on development, improvement and repair of National Highways in the State.

(c) The following amount has been earmarked for allotment to Uttar Pradesh for development, maintenance and repair of National Highways during 1987-88 :

	(Rs. in lakhs)
(i) Development Works	2750 00
(ii) Maintenance and Repairs . . . upto October, 1987	825 41

Indian Airlines flights to U.S.S.R.

1225. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Airlines has obtained rights to operate its flights to Soviet Union,

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) by what time these flights will start operating; and

(d) what will be the frequency of such flights ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (d) In the recent negotiations held from 12th to 16th October, 1987, the Soviet delegation have agreed to our request for the operation of 2nd carrier to U S.S.R. Operation by Indian Airlines will depend on market conditions.

Freighter aircraft on lease from USSR

1226. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is using the Russian I.L. 76 aircraft as a freighter received on lease from Aeroflot·

(b) if so, the period of lease and terms and conditions to the lease; and

(c) the purpose for which the aircraft is being used and capacity of the aircraft ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present period of the lease is for one year from 1st May, 1987 to 30th April, 1988 which could be extended for any period mutually acceptable to both the parties. The terms and conditions of the lease in brief are as follows :—

(i) Guaranteed capacity 20 tonnes;

(ii) Lease payment to be made in Indian Rupees through interline billing;

(iii) Aeroflot will provide aircraft with crew;

(iv) Price payable is as follows :—

(1) Indian rupees 2,90,820 per flight for operations on Sector Delhi/Tashkent/Moscow/Zurich and Delhi/Tashkent/Moscow/Brussels.

(2) Indian rupees 3,54,080 per flight for operations on sectors Brussels/Budapest/ Moscow/ Tashkent/Bombay/Delhi and Zurich/Budapest/Moscow/Tashkent/Bombay/Delhi.

(3) Indian rupees 2,50,000 per flight for operations on sector Delhi/Moscow.

(c) This aircraft is used by Air India to operate scheduled freighter flights particularly for carrying odd sized heavy cargo consignments

Construction of Base Kitchen at New Jalpaiguri and Guwahati

1227. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Base Kitchen is being constructed at New Jalpaiguri and Guwahati in N. F. Railway;

(b) if so, what is the estimated cost thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that no Departmental dining/pantry car of N. F. Railway exists at present; and

(d) if so, what is the utility of constructing a Base Kitchen there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) The Base Kitchen has been constructed at New

Jaipaiguri. There is no proposal at present to construct a new kitchen at Guwahati.

(b) New Jalpaiguri Base Kitchen has been constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.7 lakhs.

(c) Northeast Frontier Railway is not managing any Pantry car service departmentally.

(d) The Base Kitchen at New Jaipaiguri supplies meals on trains having no pantry car service, and also on trains of other Railways with departmental pantry car service passing through New Jaipaiguri.

Pantry car service in 509/510 Avadh Assam Mail

1228. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the pantry car service in 509/510 Avadh-Assam Mail has been given to a private caterer by N. F. Railways;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to start a departmental pantry car in newly operated weekly Howrah-Cochin Express ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) It has been decided to manage the proposed pantry car service by 509/510 Avadh-Assam Express through a licensed contractor. The allotment of pantry car contract has not yet been finalised.

(b) The departmental management is not feasible due to ban on creation of posts.

(c) It is proposed to introduce pantry car service by Cochin-Howrah Express, as and when new pantry cars become available. No decision has been taken to manage this pantry car service departmentally.

Handling of liquid cargo at major ports

1229. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) what is the criteria for the allotment of land to Parties for the storage and handling of liquid cargo at major ports;

(b) what criteria/guidelines are applied for allotment of land for varying periods of (i) one year, (ii) 30 years and (iii) over 30 years; and

(c) whether any deviations have been made in exceptional circumstances in the past from above criteria if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) to (c) No specific criteria for the allotment of land to parties for the storage and handling of liquid cargo at Major Ports has been laid down by the Government. Generally lands are given on lease to applicants after taking into accounts the availability of land, the likelihood of Port requiring the land in the short or long term, the need to encourage traffic through the port and related factors. If the lease is required for more than 30 years prior approval of Central Government is required.

Extension of Rajkot-Ahmedabad inter city express upto Vadodara

1230. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any request for extending Rajkot-Ahmedabad inter city express upto Vadodara; if so, what are the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Gujarat Express takes less than nine hours to travel the distance between Ahmedabad and Bombay while another express train, Saurashtra Express takes more than thirteen hours to reach Bombay after its arrival at Ahmedabad from Gujarat; and

(c) whether Railways have received any complaint regarding the hardship caused to the long distance passengers of Saurashtra Express by the short distance commuters on Ahmedabad Bombay route; if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken by Railways in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) ...